THE RICH CULTURAL HERITAGE OF INDIA**DR. AMITA SINGH**

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Corresponding Email: hemantsaini2009@gmail.com**ABSTRACT**

Our local arts, handicrafts, fairs, festivals, dance, music, food and other art forms makes our country very unique. India, a vast land of 32, 87, 263 sq. kms, inhabits a rich culture panorama: from the mountains of north to the oceanic southern part and from the sunny east to the vibrant western part. Culturally all 36 states and Union Territories are strongly entangled with each other.

Keyword: Rich, Cultural, heritage

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It is an interesting fact that on the same day every year, Baisakhi is celebrated in North India, while Pongal is celebrated down south. Punjabi folk dance and music is relished with the same fervour in Kerala as it is done in Bihar; similarly, the entire country dances to the tunes of Garba during festive tunes of Navratras. Papier Mache of Kashmir and Madhubani of Bihar fascinate everyone.

1. Collected works of Mahatma Gandhi Vol. 79, Navjeevan Trust, Ahmedabad, 1980, p.23.

Such is the vast cultural heritage of our country that it cannot be summed up in a few lines. Our young citizens need to be aware of this aspect of our country. For an easy reference, the rich cultural heritage of India and cultural diversity - fairs and festivals, visual arts, performing arts like Bhavai, Tamesha, Sanedo etc., folk dances like lavani, garba, gidda etc.

Folk painting madhubani, gond, warli, pithoda etc. is compiled in a tabular form. Though this list is only illustrative, however, teachers must encourage students to read the table and become aware of India's cultural heritage.

Art Education

Art is not only to always blindly copy the old masters or copying the teacher's work in rigid manner but to help learners express thousands in creative and imaginative ways. Art is about creative expression of the learners, uniquely contributed by each one. Studying the works of famous artist of the past or present is undertaken to orient the learners, to varied expressions. Replicating or copying either the master or the teacher's work will check the imagination of the students and therefore must be avoided in all cases.

Similarly, creative arts cannot be a substitute of Work Education under which a few artistic activities may be conducted but the approach and product would be different.

The art forms include:

- Visual arts - on all kinds of mediums

1. Two-dimensional or pictorial
2. Drawing and painting, including Indian folk art painting
3. Collage Making
4. Printing
5. Photography
6. Computer graphics

- Three dimensional :

1. Clay modelling and pottery
2. Carving and sculpture
3. Construction
4. Any others, such as basket weaving, metal art, textile making, etc.

- Performing and Language Arts

1. Music (Vocal, Instrumental)
 2. Movement and Dance
 3. Creative Drama and Puppetry
 4. Creative Writing and Poetry
2. Collected work of natural English Vol. 79, Navjeevan Trust Ahmedabad, 1980, p.23.

- Culinary Art

1. Learning about crops and spices in India
2. Learning about traditional foods
3. Appreciating the diverse culture in India through cuisines of India
4. Learning basics of cooking and exploring creativity in cooking.

Art Integrated Learning: The Future of Creative and Joyful Pedagogy.

The Context:

The NCF 2005 states, "Aesthetic sensibility and experience being the prime sites of the growing child's creativity, we must bring the arts squarely into the domain of the curricular, infusing them in all areas of

learning while giving them an identity of their own at relevant stages. Therefore, the need to integrate art education in the formal schooling of our students now requires urgent attention if we are to retain our unique cultural identity in all its diversity and richness.”

Following the NCF 2005 concept of ‘Arts across the school curriculum’ and ‘Arts as an approach to learning’, NCERT has developed modules on ‘Arts and Arts Education’ and ‘Integration of Arts with other subjects’ for the capacity building of primary and upper primary teachers on Art Integrated learning and its implementation in classroom teaching learning. The initiative has been launched in 2011-2012.

Called Works of Mahatma Gandhi Vol.79 by Navjeevan Trust Ahmedabad, p. 23

For CBSE schools also, it has been decided to adopt the a fore mentioned approach in compliance to the NCF 2005. Accordingly, guidelines for subject teachers are being presented in this document .The list is as follows;

- The teachers should integrated Arts pedagogical tool for classroom transaction.

- The focus must be on mutually reinforcing Art as a subject and Art as a tool for learning with effort towards seamless integrations.
- Collaborative teaching (combination of subject teachers and Art teachers) should be practiced to strengthen the integration.
- Arts - Integrated Learning will support teacher's assessment of application - skills of the students in their subjects.

For detailed guidelines and training package on Art Integrated education, please refer to NCERT Manual on Arts-Integration at the link <https://www.ncert.nic.in/departments/nic/deaa/publication/print/pdf/tpaefptv2.pdf>.(Hyperlink)

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Collected works of Mahatma Gandhi, Vol. 79 Navjeevan Trust, and 1980Ahmedabad p.23.

Similar conclusion is arrived at byDevi Prasad, who while discussing one of the

questions in his book, Art - the Basic of Education has written:

“Does art help children in the other subjects? Art is related to our visual experiences. Mental imagery is an essential part of the thinking process. Visual images are closely related to mental images. Art makes these images clearer and more concrete. The experiential aspect of art helps one go deeper into the other element of life.” To sum up, in the world of Julia Marshall, Professor of Art Education, San Francisco State University, USA (in Art Education Journal, 2016), “The focus is not on the colour choices but rather the meaning, thinking and reasoning that the artistic process generates.”

Art education is the official Journals of the National Art Education Association, USA, It is published bimonthly and each issue gives an instructional resource article for teachers.

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6. Art Education is the official journal of the National Art Education, USA, It is published bimonthly and each issue gives an instructional resource article for teachers.